

ABSTRACT

A method for secure entry of a user-identifier in a publicly positioned device can include establishing a private communications link between a user and the publicly positioned device; dividing the user-identifier into at least two portions; separately prompting the user for each portion of the user-identifier; prompting the user for a combination of random data and the user-identifier; and, discarding the random data from the combination. In the preferred embodiments, the publicly positioned device can have a visual interface through which the user can be visually prompted for the random data and the user-identifier. Alternatively, the publicly positioned device can have a telephone interface through which the user can be audibly prompted for the random data and the user-identifier. In the case of a visual display, the private communications link can be established by linking the publicly positioned device to active glasses having a shuttered display. The opening and closing of the shuttered display can be synchronized with the display of the prompts in the visual interface such that only the wearer of the active glasses can view the prompts. In the case of a telephone interface, an telephone operator system, for example an Interactive Voice Response system or a human operator, can provide the prompts audibly through the telephone interface.